

Eternal Life Through Believing in Jesus

**40) Your Sorrow
Will Be Turned Into Joy**

"A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father." Then some of His disciples said among themselves, "What is this that He says to us, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'; and, 'because I go to the Father'?" They said therefore, "What is this that He says, 'A little while'? We do not know what He is saying." Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, "Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, 'A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me'? Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you"

(John 16:16-22)

- ✓ **The phrase 'a little while' is found 7 times in four verses. The first 'a little while' refers to His death and burial. Within 2 hours or so He would be arrested. The second 'a little while' is a reference to His resurrection and ascension**
- ✓ **Jesus tells them that in a little while they, will weep and lament at His death. And they did. 'She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept' (Mark 16:10). 'And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"' (Luke 24:17)**
- ✓ **Their sorrow would intensify as the world rejoices to see the end of Him**

- ✓ **But after a short while their grief would be turned to joy. 'So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word' (Matt.28:8). Sad hearts would become burning hearts filled with joy. 'When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord' (John 20:20). 'And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy' (Lk.24:52)**
- ✓ **The birth, death and resurrection principle**
- ✓ **Great times of joy and blessing often follow a period of testing and suffering. Remember, His first miracle was to turn the water into wine**

- ✓ **God does not *replace* sorrow with joy, but *turns* sorrow into joy**
- ✓ **Jesus likened His brief parting to a woman in labour. Suffering often prepares for new beginnings, as with the birth of a child**
- ✓ **This joy will never be taken from us**
- ✓ **The sufferings of this life are for a little while and will give way to endless joy. *'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us'* (Rom.8:18)**

- ✓ **We groan but our sorrow will be turned to joy**
- ✓ **In a similar way it is 'a little while' also before the sufferings endured by the church will be replaced with uninterrupted joy when Jesus returns, 'For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: "For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry"' (Heb.10:37-38)**
- ✓ **'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal' (2 Cor.4:17-18)**

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full”
(John 16:23-24)

- ✓ **'In that day...'. The resurrection marks the beginning of a new day**
- ✓ **There would even be a change in their prayer life. They would not have the physical presence of Jesus with them and would not be able, as before, to ask Him directly**
- ✓ **Instead, now whatever they needed to know they could go direct to the Father in Jesus' name with boldness and confidence because of the merits of Jesus**

“These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father”

(John 16:25-28)

- ✓ **Much of Jesus' teaching was obscure to them up until this point, because it could only be understood in light of the cross and resurrection**
- ✓ **So the future, at this stage was unclear to them**
- ✓ **After the resurrection His teaching would become much clearer. E.g. Lk.24:27; *'And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures'* (Luke 24:45)**
- ✓ ***'He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God'* (Acts 1:3)**

***The complete fulfillment of their understanding was given with the coming of the Spirit, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (John 16:12-14)**

***Note the marked difference in teaching between the gospels and the epistles. Jesus sowed the seeds of the gospel; the apostles expanded that teaching in depth and detail**

***This difference will be seen also in the way they prayed**

***Jesus assures them that He does not need to persuade the Father to be favourable towards them, because the Father loves them**

***He loves them, not in the same way that He loves the world (Jn.3:16), but because they love the Son**

***Their love to the Son is evidenced by their faith. They 'believed' that He came forth from God**

These are 4 vital facts for our faith to rest upon:

- The deity of Christ - Jesus came forth from the Father**
- The humanity of Christ – He came into this world. He added humanity to His deity**
- The death and resurrection of Christ – He had a commission here which He accomplished**
- His ascension – He returned to the Father**

'His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God"'
(John 16:29-30)

***Their minds and hearts are now at ease because He demonstrated His omniscience by:**

1) Answering the questions they wanted to ask but hadn't yet articulated. He could read their hearts like an open book

2) Telling them things that would happen in the future

***By this they knew He had come from the Father**

***This was their last confession of Him before the Cross**

'Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world'"

(John 16:31-33)

***Jesus read their hearts even better than they knew. He knew that though they were believers, their faith was not yet firm, and they would even desert Him in His hour of trial**

***He who read their hearts also showed them His heart. When He saw them at their worst, He showed them His best**

***Yet His strength and sustenance came from His relationship with the Father**

***There are 2 spheres of existence: 'in Me' and 'in the world'**

***Those who are 'in Christ' will suffer persecution from those who are 'in the world'**

***But this brings assurance that we belong to Him, '...if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together' (Rom.8:17)**

***Note these two facts: 1) We will experience tribulation in the world; 2) We have the victory because He has overcome the world and we believe in Him (1 John 5:4)**

***Assurance of victory based on His triumph and is a fitting note to end the upper room discourses**

***Soon Jesus would pray for His disciples. Before He did, He summarized the purpose of the long talk He had with them: to give them peace and the settled assurance of overcomers**